

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 25, 26, 34 and 35 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 19, 20, 23, 24, 28-30, 32, 33, and 36 as follows.

1-18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals;

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing monochrome image formation;

a second mode for executing color image formation; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion; and

a designating portion, ~~wherein when the auto-selecting mode is selected, said designating portion~~ by which an operator can designate between the first mode and the second

mode as a standby position in which a predetermined developing device stands ready before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination in the auto-selecting mode.

20. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the ~~standby position of a~~ predetermined developing device differs in accordance with a designation by said designating portion.

21. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said predetermined developing device is a developing device to be used initially in the second mode.

22. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

23. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image bearing member;
a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;
an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals; and

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing monochrome image formation;

a second mode for executing color image formation; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion,

wherein ~~when the auto-selecting mode is selected~~, said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a designation by an operator or in accordance with a frequency of use in the first mode and a frequency of use in the second mode of said image forming apparatus, and stands by in a selected mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

24. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein when ~~the stand-by~~ a standby mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination is different from the mode the image forming apparatus is changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion, said control portion moves a developing device to be used initially in the mode the image forming apparatus is to be changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion to a developing position.

25-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

28. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image bearing member;
a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;
an input portion for inputting an image signal;
an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals;
a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing image formation using a first developing device;
a second mode for executing image formation without using first developing device; and
an auto-selecting mode for changing over between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion; and

a designating portion, ~~wherein when the auto-selecting mode is selected, said designating portion by which an operator~~ can designate between the first mode and the second mode as a standby position in which a predetermined developing device stands ready before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination in the auto-selecting mode.

29. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the ~~standby position of a~~ predetermined developing device differs in accordance with a designation by said designating portion.

30. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said predetermined developing device is a the first developing device to be used in the first mode.

31. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

32. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals; and

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing image formation using a first developing device;

a second mode for executing image formation without using said first developing device; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion,

wherein ~~when the auto-selecting mode is selected~~, said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a designation by an operator or in accordance with a frequency of use in the first mode and a frequency of use in the second mode of said image forming apparatus, and stands by in a selected mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

33. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein when ~~the stand-by~~ a standby mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination is different from the mode the image forming apparatus is changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion, said control portion

moves a developing device to be used initially in the mode the image forming apparatus is to be changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion to a developing position.

34-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to ~~Claim 33~~ Claim 32, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.